



## Testing Recommendations for Children Born to Persons living with Hepatitis C Virus

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/rr/rr7204a1.htm>

If Child is:	Order the following tests
<b>2 - 6 Months</b>	<b>NAT for Hepatitis C Virus RNA</b>
<b>7 to 17 months who have not been previously tested</b>	<b>NAT for Hepatitis C Virus RNA</b>
<b>Aged ≥ 18 months who previously have not been tested</b>	<b>Anti-HCV test with reflex to NAT for HCV RNA</b>

### Frequently Asked Questions

Why are children not tested for hepatitis C virus antibody prior to 18 months of age?

- Hepatitis C virus antibody testing before 18 months of age is not recommended as a positive result could likely reflect transient maternal hepatitis C virus antibodies.

Can a person with hepatitis C virus vertically transmit hepatitis C virus to their child during pregnancy or birth?

- A person must be viremic (hepatitis C virus RNA-positive) during pregnancy to transmit hepatitis C virus to their child.
- The chance of a person with hepatitis C virus vertically transmitting the virus to their child is approximately 7% with each pregnancy.
- Hepatitis C virus transmission occurs at the time of birth, and no intrapartum or newborn prophylaxis is currently available.
- Most children with hepatitis C virus show few or no signs of being sick, but if untreated, hepatitis c virus can lead to serious liver damage.
- Treatment for hepatitis C virus is now available for children three years of age and older.

What hepatitis C virus information is reportable to the Tennessee Department of Health?

- Laboratories must report positive and negative hepatitis C antibody (anti-HCV) for individuals aged 0-36 months (for perinatal HCV exposure assessment) and RNA results (both positive and negative) to the Tennessee Department of Health:
  - <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/reportable-diseases/2024-Detailed-Laboratory-Guidance.pdf>
- Providers must report cases of perinatal hepatitis C virus or cases of acute hepatitis C virus to the Tennessee Department of Health within one week of identification:
  - <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/reportable-diseases/2024-List-Provider.pdf>